

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 12-16, 18-20, and 26-29 are all the claims currently pending. Claims 12-16, 18-20 and 26-29 have been allowed. By this Amendment, claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 20 and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response To §103 Rejections

Claim 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,291, hereafter Ishibashi) in view of Wegner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,907, hereafter Wegner)..

Claim 30 has been canceled rendering the rejections noted above moot.

Additionally, minor amendments were made to claims 20 and 29 to clarify the scope of the present invention. These claim changes are believed to be self-explanatory.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4467.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4467.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:

Mark D. Pratt
Mark D. Pratt
Registration No. 45,794
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101